

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

Local Government Advisory Committee

2. **Authority:**

This charter renews the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The LGAC is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities under miscellaneous statutes.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

Federal environmental statutes provide for the delegation of programs to State and local governments. The States and local governments are ultimately responsible for the implementation of many public health and environmental programs that ensure that citizens have clean air and water, safe drinking water, and environmentally sound waste disposal. The LGAC is a policy-oriented committee. To ensure that the Agency's regulations, policies, guidance, and technical assistance actually improve the capacity of local governments to carry-out these programs, the LGAC provides policy advice and recommendations to EPA on:

- a. Changes needed to allow flexibility and innovation and to accommodate local needs without compromising environmental performance, accountability, or fairness;
- b. Exploring ways to improve performance measurement and speed dissemination of new environmental protection techniques and technologies among local governments;
- c. Improvements to program management, and the regulatory planning and development processes to involve local governments more effectively as partners in environmental management;

- d. Ways in which EPA and states can help local governments strengthen their capacity to promote environmental quality, including public access, community right-to-know, and performance measurement;
- e. Projects to help local governments deal with the challenge of financing environmental protection infrastructure; and,
- f. EPA's policies, procedures, and practices regarding local government (development, implementation, and evaluation) including how those policies, procedures and practices further the Administrator's priorities regarding environmental justice, climate change and energy, and sustainability.

4. **Description of Committees Duties:**

The duties of LGAC are solely to provide policy advice to EPA.

5. **Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:**

The LGAC will submit advice and recommendations, and report to the EPA Administrator, through the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

6. **Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:**

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Office of the Administrator.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:**

The estimated annual operating cost of the LGAC is \$600,000 which includes 3.0 person-years of support.

8. **Designated Federal Officer:**

A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings of the advisory committee's and subcommittee meetings and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so and will chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the committee reports.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

LGAC expects to meet approximately three (3) times a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every four (4) months or as needed and approved by the DFO. EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate.

As required by FACA, the LGAC will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection c of Section 552b of Title 5. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the committee as time permits, and file comments with the LGAC.

10. **Duration and Termination:**

The LGAC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA Administrator determines the committee is no longer needed. This Charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After this two-year period, the Charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

11. **Member Composition:**

The LGAC will be composed of approximately thirty (30) members, who will be current and/or former elected and appointed local government officials. Members will serve as Representative members of non-Federal interests. In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates who are currently local elected or appointed officials representing: States, counties, cities, and other local governments, small communities, and tribal governments. EPA will consider candidates such as mayors, city council members, county commissioners and executives, city managers, small town officials, public works, public health and environmental directors, tribal government leaders, and State officials including legislators and environmental directors.

12. **Subgroups:**

EPA, or the LGAC with EPA's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the LGAC for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the EPA.

13. **Recordkeeping:**

The records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 and EPA Records Schedule 181 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, these records shall be available for public inspection and copying, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and 5 U.S.C. 552.

December 5, 2011

Agency Approval Date

December 9, 2011

GSA Consultation Date

December 30, 2011

Date Filed with Congress